PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

R. E. CAHOON ET AL.

CASE NO.: BB1201 US DIV

APPLICATION NO.: UNKNOWN

GROUP ART UNIT: UNKNOWN

FILED: HEREWITH

EXAMINER: UNKNOWN

FOR: VITAMIN B METABOLISM PROTEINS

4/a
D.Q
3/28/02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the application as follows and consider the following remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the following paragraphs:

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/371,056 filed August 9, 1999, whose contents are incorporated by reference, and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/096,342, filed August 12, 1998.

Paragraph beginning at page 7, line 4:

"Codon degeneracy" refers to divergence in the genetic code permitting variation of the nucleotide sequence without affecting the amino acid sequence of an encoded polypeptide. Accordingly, the instant invention relates to any nucleic acid fragment comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequences set forth herein. The skilled artisan is well aware of the "codon-bias" exhibited by a specific host cell in usage of nucleotide codons to specify a given amino acid. Therefore, when synthesizing a nucleic acid fragment for improved expression in a host cell, it is desirable to design the nucleic acid fragment such that its frequency of codon usage approaches the frequency of preferred codon usage of the host cell.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

11. "added" An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a pyridoxamine-phosphate oxidase, wherein the polypeptide has a sequence identity of at least 80%, based on the Clustal method of alignment, when compared to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:10, 12, 14, and 16.